

Summary of the
Summer Internship Program
From 1989 - 2005

South Carolina

Department of Natural Resources

Marine Resources Division

Charleston, South Carolina



Chairperson's Comments

I am honored to have chaired the Minority Affairs Committee (MAC) of the SC Department of Natural Resources (SCDNR) - Marine Resources Division (MRD) for nearly twelve years and to have been co-coordinator of the MRD Summer Internship Program since its inception in 1989. When the MAC was formed in 1993, one of its primary goals was to enhance the internship program. Well, here we are in 2005, and it is great to say that we successfully accomplished that goal. For over fifteen years, there have been nearly 100 energetic, curious, dedicated, hard-working students gaining valuable research experience, while working on exciting projects for the MRD, Fort Johnson Science Complex, and the scientific and coastal management community at large. We especially thank all program alumni - we are better for having known you and worked with you.

While I chaired this committee, my tasks were pleasurable as well as gratifying. This was due in part to the cooperation and hard work of the committee members. I can't say how much I appreciated the support and the generous donation of your time. The MAC charter members are Charlie Barans, Anita Mitchum, Louis Heyward, Nancy O'Connor, Sandra Upchurch, Raymond Rhodes and Donna Gibson. The committee was later extended to include Donnia Richardson, Bill Roumillat, Phil Maier, Nancy Hedtke, Eileen Heyward and Ernest Muhammad.

I would like to extend a special thanks to program co-chairs Ms. Donnia Richardson and Dr. Charlie Barans. I appreciated your patience as we traveled SC on recruitment efforts, proposal reviews, committee meetings, etc. We were a good team.

As you read, reflect, and reminisce, please pay close attention to the successes of the students.

We dedicate this book to every person who assisted in making this program a TREMENDOUS success. May God Bless You and Keep You.



Committee members (left to right) Donnia Richardson, Bill Roumillat, M. Yvonne Bobo, Eileen Heyward, Charlie Barans, and Sandra Upchurch, (Not pictured: Louis Heyward and Ernest Muhammad)

M. Yvonne Bobo

Minority Affairs Committee Chairperson
Summer Internship -Co Coordinator

Program Overview/Background

Because a diversity of approaches is needed to adequately manage natural resources through scientific research, the SC Department of Natural Resources – Marine Resources Division (SC MRD) has been committed to providing research experiences for minorities at the undergraduate college level and encouraging underrepresented groups to select careers or to continue their education in the marine and environmental fields. In 1989, SCMRD began funding summer internships for minority students attending South Carolina's Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs), so that they could participate in diverse research programs.

While the format of the summer internship program changed over the years, the primary goal to increase the number of undergraduate minorities choosing marine or environmental science as a profession did not. The program objectives included: 1) involving minority undergraduate students in mentor-guided, independent research projects in marine and environmental science; 2) providing minority students with role models and training in basic principles of marine and environmental science and scientific theory through seminars conducted by minority scientists, classroom work and field experiences; and 3) encouraging students to increase their qualifications in science fields by continuing their education through graduate school.

Program Accomplishments

Determining the success of minority training programs such as the SCMRD summer internship program depends upon what measurements are used. Having students who are underrepresented in math and science careers participate in summer internships focused on scientific and environmental management research, is in itself a success.

Key minority program accomplishments include:

- ❖ Nearly 100 students have participated in summer research training programs at SC MRD since 1989.
- ❖ Nearly 50% have continued their education toward graduate science degrees or pursued a career in the sciences, including medicine.
- ❖ Many students have participated in local and national meetings across the United States and abroad.
- ❖ Many students have presented the results of their summer research at these meetings and several have won awards. Some of the meetings were:
 - American Society of Limnology and Oceanography
 - Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies
 - Southeastern Estuarine Research Society
 - American Fisheries Society
 - South Carolina Alliance for Minority Participation
- ❖ Many students participated in other internship programs after their summer experience at SC MRD.
- ❖ Nearly every year, a few students were listed as co-authors on publications with their mentors.

Funding Sources

The SC Marine Resources Division provided funding and administrative support for the Summer Internship Program, and over the years, the program was broadened to include financial support from federal and state agencies (Table 1). The primary source of student support from 1996 to 2005 was the National Science Foundation.

Table 1. Sources of funding for SCDNR Minority Internship Program from 1989 – 2005.

Funding Agency	Funding Branch
SC Department of Natural Resources	Marine Resources Division
Office of Naval Research	
National Science Foundation	Ocean Sciences Directorate
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	Coastal Ocean Program
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	National Marine Fisheries Service
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration	SC Sea Grant Consortium
South Carolina State University	
SC Harry Hampton Memorial Wildlife Fund	

Synopsis of Summer Activities

From 1989 to 2005, the Marine Resources Division provided “hands-on” experience to nearly 100 undergraduate students in the fields of marine, environmental and coastal ocean science, including: chemistry; marine biology; fisheries science; toxicology; microbiology; marine, estuarine and wetland ecology; and natural resource management and policy. The program evolved over the years with new components added while others were modified to enhance the experiences of the students. During the early years (1989-1995), the students worked with a team of scientists on a project, attended marine science classes, and wrote a paper about their research activities.

In 1996, the format of the internship was revised. During the 12-week summer program, the interns worked extensively on independent research projects under the guidance of scientist mentors. They learned how to design research projects, thus gaining valuable experience about scientific problem solving and decision-making skills.

The mentors explained all facets of current research and emphasized the importance of conducting high quality research. They exposed the students to the diverse research activities being conducted at the Fort Johnson Complex, and provided them the opportunity to observe fellow interns working on other research projects.

During the summer, the students attended classroom sessions on statistics, scientific writing, and preparing electronic presentations, which were designed to increase their confidence in conducting research. Additionally, they participated in field trips and also met with minority scientists, representing several areas of expertise in environmental and marine sciences, to exchange ideas about marine and environmental science. The students were required to prepare an oral presentation and scientific paper on the findings of their summer research project.

Summer Interns

Ninety-five undergraduate students participated in our summer intern programs. During the early years, they were recruited from South Carolina colleges and universities. In 1996, recruitment was expanded to include schools from across the United States. Each summer, six to eight students were selected based on their credentials and interviews with mentors and a selection committee of SCMRD staff. Information about the students is in Table 2.



1990 Interns

(Left to right) Arvé Hammock, Ms. Yvonne Bobo Brenda Frazier, and Melissa Sargent



1993 Interns

Ron Mikell and Antoine Johnson (Not pictured: Errol Fields, Aliyah Spruill, Scottie McDuffie, Nalani Kalawe, and Valinda Olds)



1991 Interns

(Left to right, back row) Chenise Lambert, Natombi Smith, Dionne Sumpter and Tammie Terrell. (Left to right, front row) Leyana Lloyd, Alexis Ware, and Shauna Patterson (Not pictured: Gail Dunham and Dawn Evans)



1992 Interns

(Left to right) Michelle Haynes, Dhayalini Chandrasegaram, and George McCowan

1994 Interns

(Left to right) Shawdy Huggins, Semonia Eady, Donnie Grays, Gerald Johnson and Patrick Shell



1995 Interns

(Left to right) Tameka Byrd, Wendy Howard, Danielle Capers, Ms. Yvonne Bobo, Diane Champion, and Amy Belton



1998 Interns

(Left to right) Devin Casey, Patrice Mazyck, Latoya Smalls, Endia Johnson, Alexis Epps, and Armadeep Puddan



1996 Interns

(Left to right) Veronica Cline, Vanessa Martinez, Lovee McKinney, Dr. Lisa White, Goler Collins, Sadida Chinnis, and Jada Richardson



1999 Interns

(Left to right) Natasha Cobb, Wanda Lewis, Taconya Piper, Shamara Bullock, Celere Leonard, and Raissa Delmestre



1997 Interns

(Left to right) Reginald Garner, TrVera Williams, Marla Taylor, Dr. Lisa White, Naomi Walker, Monica Rawlinson, and Marc Maynor



2000 Interns

(Left to right) Jachelle Garrett, QuinnShauna Felder, Tiffany Lee, Stephanie Stinson, Lateefah Scribner, Dr. Dionne Hoskins, and Dana Broughton



2001 Interns

(Left to right) LaShawn Smalls, Cecilia Lewis, Claudia CebadaMora, Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields, Zinnette Lee, and Joe Seawright



2003 Interns

(Left to right) Ana Estrella, Megan Singleton, Shanna Chamblis, Sydnee Battles, and Deon Flowers. (Center) Ileana Torre



2002 Interns

(Left to right, front row) Saadia Massey, Dr. Cecil Jennings, and Arena Richardson. (Left to right, back row) Legna Varela, Tracy Staton, Marielis Sexto, Ethell Vereen, Jr., and Priscilla McCutcheon



2004 Interns

(Left to right) Sharon Dayse, Jessica Hodge, Akili Lynn, Dr. Anthony Overton, Linnette Mercado, Sophia Moorer, Stephanie Martin, and Kayla Brown



2005 Interns

(Left to right, back row) Henry Jackson III, Dr. Cecil Jennings, and Alex Harvey. (Left to right, front row) Shaketia Murray, LaTrisha Allen, Tameka Byrd, and Rickey Carreker. (Center) Nezhla Sanderson

Student Tracking

We have always been interested in learning about the educational and career paths chosen by alumni of the SCMRD internship programs. Student tracking efforts began after the 1996 pro-

gram, and have documented that many of the past students have continued their education towards graduate science degrees or pursued a career in the sciences, including medicine. Table 2 provides the latest information we have on all summer interns of the SC Marine Resources Division internship programs (1990-2005).

Table 2. Information on students who participated in SCMRD minority summer internship program (1990-2005). Superscripts indicate the following: 1- received course credit at home institution; 2- presented at a national meeting.

Name/Internship Year	College/University	Home State	Current Status / Last Update
Melissa Sargent/ 1990-91	South Carolina State University		Roche Pharmaceutical in N.C.
Arve Hammock/ 1991	South Carolina State University		Vintage Pharmaceutical in N.C.
Brenda Frazier/ 1991	South Carolina State University		
Donnia Richardson/ 1991	Francis Marion College, SC	SC	Biologist at SC Marine Resources Div.
Mozella Moore/ 1991	Francis Marion College, SC	SC	Histotechnician, MUSC
Kevin Grant/ 1991	South Carolina State University	SC	
Dionne Sumpter/ 1991	South Carolina State University		
Tammie Terrell/ 1991	South Carolina State University		
Chenise Lambert/ 1991	South Carolina State University		
Dawn Evans/ 1991	South Carolina State University		
Natombi Smith/ 1991-92	South Carolina State University		
Leyana Lloyd/ 1991-92	South Carolina State University		
Alexis Ware/ 1991-92	South Carolina State University		
Shauna Patterson/ 1991-92	South Carolina State University		
Karen Jackson/ 1992	College of Charleston, SC	SC	
George McCowan/ 1992-93	South Carolina State University	SC	
Michelle Haynes/ 1992-93	South Carolina State University		
Dhayalini Chandrasegaram/ 1992-93	Claflin College, SC		
Valinda Olds/ 1993	Claflin College, SC		
Errol Fields/1993			
Nalani Kalawe/ 1993	South Carolina State University		
Scottie McDuffie/ 1993	South Carolina State University		
Alyah Spruill/ 1993	South Carolina State University		
Antoine Johnson/ 1993	Clemson University, SC	SC	Engineer at a N.C. Electric Company
Ronald Mikell/ 1993	South Carolina State University	SC	
Semonia Eadie/ 1994	Claflin College, SC	SC	
Gerald Johnson/ 1994	Benedict College, SC	SC	Pharmacist
Shawdy Huggins/ 1994	Benedict College, SC	SC	

Table 2 (continued). Information on students who participated in SCMRD minority summer internship program (1990-2005). Superscripts indicate the following: 1- received course credit at home institution; 2- presented at a national meeting.

Name/Internship Year	College/University	Home State	Current Status / Last Update
Patrick Shell/ 1994	College of Charleston, SC	SC	School Teacher
Donnie Grays/ 1994	Benedict College, SC	SC	
Amy Belton/1995	Claflin College, SC	SC	
Tameka Byrd/ 1995	Benedict College, SC	SC	
Danielle Capers/ 1995	Coker College, SC	SC	
Diane Champion/ 1995	University of South Carolina	SC	
Wendy Howard/ 1995	Benedict College, SC	SC	
Sadida Chinnis/1996	Claflin College, SC	SC	BS 1998
Veronica Cline ² /1996	University of Texas – El Paso	TX	BS 1997, MS Geology, 1999; Geologist at ADDP, CA
Goler Collins/1996	South Carolina State University	SC	BS 1996, Assistant Principal at E.L. Wright Middle School, Columbia, SC
Vanessa Martinez ² /1996	University of N.C. - Greensboro	NC	
Lovee McKinney/1996	Newberry College, SC	SC	BS 1998, Law student at University of South Carolina
Jada Richardson/1996	Wilberforce University, OH	SC	
Reginald Garner ^{1,2} /1997	Winthrop College, SC	SC	BS 1998, Chemist at Textile Company
Marc Maynor/1997	Claflin College, SC	SC	BS 2000, Ph.D. candidate in Chemistry at University of SC
Monica Rawlinson/1997	South Carolina State University	NV	BS 2000, Medical School
Marla Taylor ¹ /1997	Southern University, LA	LA	BS 1999, High School biology teacher
Naomi Walker/1997	Grambling University, SC	SC	BS 1999
TrVera Williams/1997	Newberry College, SC	SC	BS 1998, Physical therapist
Alexis Epps ² /1998	New Mexico State University	WY	BS 2000, enrolled in M.S. Pathobiology program
Endia Johnson ^{1,2} /1998	College of Charleston, SC	SC	Graduated medical school
Amardeep Puddan/1998	Converse College, SC	SC	BS 2000, Pharmacist
Latoya Smalls ² /1998	Coastal Carolina University, SC	SC	BS 2000, Life Scientist at EPA
Patrice Mazyck/1998	Benedict College, SC	SC	BS 1998, OSHA Officer
Raissa Delmestre/1999	University Of San Juan	PR	
Wanda Lewis ^{1,2} /1999	New Mexico State University	NM	BS 1999, Chemist at Abbott Labs
Shamara Bullock/1999	University of MD - Eastern Shore	MD	BS 1999, accountant firm
Natasha Cobb ^{1,2} /1999	College of Charleston, SC	SC	BS, 2003, Hgh Sch chemistry teacher

Table 2 (continued). Information on students who participated in SCMRD minority summer internship program (1990-2005). Superscripts indicate the following: 1-received course credit at home institution; 2-presented at a national meeting.

Name/Internship Year	College/University	Home State	Current Status / Last Update
Taconya Piper ² /1999	University of MD - Eastern Shore	MD	BS 1999, MS 2003, Ph.D. candidate at Auburn University
Celere Leonard ² /1999	Tuskegee University, AL	CA	BS 2000, Scientist at public health laboratory
Tiffany Lee/2000	Savannah State University, GA	NJ	M.S. degree in Fisheries Biology (Clemson Univ.); Jr. Hgh Sch. teacher
Dana Broughton/2000	Clemson University, SC	SC	Ph.D. candidate in chemistry at University of South Carolina
Stephanie Stinson/2000	Newberry College, SC	SC	senior
Lateefah Scribner/2000	South Carolina State University	DE	senior
QuinnShauna Felder/2000	College of Charleston, SC	SC	applying to graduate school
Jachelle Garrett/2000	University of South Carolina	SC	Enrolled in Medical University of South Carolina Dental School
Cecilia Lewis/2001	College of Charleston, SC	SC	BS 2004, applying to graduate schools
Ethell Vereen Jr. ² /2001, 2002	South Carolina State University	SC	BS 2002, Ph.D. candidate at University of Georgia
Claudia CebadaMora/2001	Stony Brook State University, NY	NY	
LaShawn Smalls/2001	South Carolina State University	SC	Enrolled in Chiropractic school
Zinnette Lee/2001	Benedict College, SC	MS	Enrolled in Chiropractic school
Joe Seawright, Jr./2001	South Carolina State University	SC	
Saadia Massey/2002	South Carolina State University	GA	
Arena Richardson ² /2002, 2003	South Carolina State University	SC	BS 2004; enrolled in Ph.D. program at University of Georgia
Marielis Sexto Santiago ² /2002	University of P. R. - Mayaguez	PR	BS 2002; Quality Associate at Baxter Healthcare Corp.
Priscilla McCutcheon/2002	Spelman College, GA	SC	BS 2004; M.S. program at University of Georgia
Tracy Staton ² /2002	Elizabeth City University, NC	NC	M.S. program at University of South Florida
Legna Varela Morales/2002	University of P. R. - Aquadilla	PR	BS 2004
Sydnee Battles/2003	South Carolina State University	SC	Undergraduate
Ileana Torre Torres/2003	University of Puerto Rico	PR	BS 2004, MS program at University of Charleston, SC

Table 2 (continued). Information on students who participated in SCMRD minority summer internship program (1990-2005). Superscripts indicate the following: 1-received course credit at home institution; 2-presented at a national meeting.

Name/Internship Year	College/University	Home State	Current Status / Last Update
Ana Estrella/2003	University of Puerto Rico	PR	Biologist at Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources
Shanna Chambliss ¹ /2003	Elizabeth City University, NC	NJ	BS 2004; M.S. program at Delaware State University
Deon Flowers/2003	College of Charleston, SC	SC	
Megan Singleton ¹ /2003	Spelman College	SC	M.S. program at Savannah State University in Georgia
Akili Lynn/2004	Drexel University, PA	NJ	BS 2004; Air compliance & enforcement officer, State of NJ
Jessica Hodge/2004	Claflin College, SC	AL	Undergraduate
Sharon Dayse/2004	South Carolina State University	SC	BS 2005
Stephanie Martin/2004	Tuskegee University, AL	Wash, DC	BS 2004, Veterinary School at Tuskegee University
Linnette Mercado/2004	University of P. R. - Humacao	PR	BS 2004
Sophia Moorer/2004	South Carolina State University	SC	Undergraduate
Kayla Brown/2004	College of Charleston, SC	SC	Undergraduate
Henry Jackson III/2005	Jackson State University, MS	TX	Undergraduate
Nezhla Sanderson/2005	Allen University, SC	IN	Undergraduate
Tameka Bolden/2005	Claflin College, SC	SC	Undergraduate
LaTrisha Allen/2005	East Carolina University, SC	NC	Undergraduate
Alex Harvey /2005	Mississippi State University	MS	Undergraduate
Shaketia Murray/2005	Claflin College, SC	SC	Undergraduate
Rickey Carreker/2005	South Carolina State University	GA	Undergraduate

Summer Intern Mentors

Scientists from every agency at the South Carolina MarineResources Center at fort Johnson served as mentors during the summer Internship Program

(Table 3). Mentors were chosen to represent the multitude of both research and management experiences available at the Center complex. An orientation workshop was held each year just prior to the summer program to remind the mentors chosen for that year of the extra patience and additional time

commitment necessary for a successful training experience.

We were quite pleased that each mentor took great care to make every summer program excel.

For instance, some of the interns were listed as co-authors with their mentors on publications based on the interns' research; this is a true measure of the program's success in influencing upcoming researchers in marine science.

Table 3. Scientists who mentored the students during the SCMRD minority summer intern program.

Affiliation/Location	Name of Research Mentor (and Area of Expertise)
SCDNR/Marine Resources Division, Charleston, South Carolina	Mr. Mike Denson and Mr. Wally Jenkins (Mariculture); Ms. Nancy Hadley (Shellfish Biology); Mr. Phil Maier (Crustacean Biology); Dr. Betty Wenner and Mr. Mark Thompson (Horseshoe Crab Research); Mr. Bill Roumillat and Ms. Myra Brouwer (Fish Life History); Dr. George Sedberry (Fish Life History); Drs. Alan Lewitus, Susan Wilde and Patrick Brown (Harmful Algae); Dr. Fred Holland (Marine Ecology); Dr. Charlie Barans, Ms. Paulette Mikell and Ms. Jessica Stephen (Marine Ecology); Ms. Sandra Upchurch (Wetlands Ecology); Dr. Thomas Mathews (Environmental Water Chemistry); Dr. Amy Ringwood (Marine Toxicology); Dr. Denise Sanger and Mr. Brian Thompson (Tidal Creek Water Quality); Ms. Kim Iverson and Ms. Kay Davy (Fishery Economics); Mr. Robert Boyles (Marine Policy); Mr. Andy Jennings and Mr. Bill Anderson (Larval oyster settlement); Mr. Raymond Rhodes (Marine Economics); Mr. Pete Laurie (Photo journalism); Dr. Amy Ball, Ms. Marion Beal and Mr. Brandon Eleby (Genetic Diversity)
Grice Marine Biology Laboratory/ University of Charleston, Charleston, SC	Dr. David Owens (Diamondback terrapins); Dr. Jack DiTullio and Ms. Sarah Riseman (Marine Phytoplankton); Dr. Craig Plante (Marine Bacteriology); Drs. Antony Harold and Bill Anderson (Marine Taxonomy)
NOAA/NOS CCEHBR Laboratory, Charleston, SC	Drs. Paul Pennington and Ed Wirth (Environmental Ecology); Dr. Steve Morton (Shellfish Poisoning); Dr. Peter Moeller (Environmental Water Chemistry)
Marine Biomedical and Environmental Science Prog./ Medical University of SC, Charleston, SC	Dr. Pamela Morris (Environmental Microbiology); Dr. Margie Pedan-Adams (Marine Biology); Dr. Gregory Warr (Genetics)
Atlantic Littleneck Clam Farm/ Charleston, SC	Dr. Thomas Cheng (Shellfish Biology)

Visiting Scientists

Minority scientists were invited to interact with the students during the summer programs (Table 4). This contact was an essential part of the total student experience. Networking with these role models, each with a wide range of contacts from throughout the country, assisted student progress into professional careers.

Student Recruitment

We were successful in having students from across the country participate in the internship

program because application packets were sent to colleges and universities nationwide (Table 5). In addition, recruitment efforts over the years included distributing program announcements to program alumni, colleagues in the marine and environmental science community, and other contact persons and organizations in our training database. Many of the South Carolina schools were visited each year during career fairs to encourage participation. In 2002, the program announcement was made available on the SCDNR webpage, which proved to be a valuable recruitment tool. Directors of the SC Alliance for Minority Participation (SCAMP) programs were also instrumental in recruiting qualified undergraduates to the summer internship programs.

Table 4. Visiting scientists who participated in the SCMRD minority summer intern program.

Visiting Scientist	Professional Title	Affiliation and Location
Dr. Mamie Parker	Deputy Assistant	Geographic Area, Fish and Wildlife Service, Atlanta, GA
Dr. Howard Adams	Director	National Institute of Mentoring
Dr. Lisa White	Professor of Geoscience	San Francisco State University
Dr. Pernell Lewis	Professor of Biology	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Dr. Cecil Jennings	Team Leader	Cooperative Fish and Wildlife Unit, University of Georgia - Athens
Dr. Michael Howell	Professor of Geology	University of South Carolina - Columbia
Rear Admiral Evelyn Fields (retired)	Commander of NOAA Corps	Silver Spring, MD
Dr. Dionne Hoskins	Professor of Biology	Savannah State University, GA
Ms. Ruth Kiambo	NOAA/NOS laboratory and graduate student	University of Charleston, SC
Dr. Anthony Overton	Professor of Biology	East Carolina University, NC
Ms. Tiffany Lee Griggs	Life Science teacher (Former MIMES Intern)	Lewis Frasier Middle School, GA
Ms. Megan Singleton	MS candidate (Former MIMES Intern)	Savannah State University, GA
Ms. Taconya Piper	Ph.D. candidate (Former MIMES Intern)	Auburn University, AL
Mr. Ethell Vereen, Jr.	Ph.D. candidate (Former MIMES Intern)	University of Georgia - Athens

Table 5. Schools represented by undergraduate students participating in the SCMRD Minority Internship Program (1990-2005).

Location	Name of Institution
Alabama	Tuskegee University
Georgia	Savannah State University, Spelman College
Louisiana	Grambling University, Southern University
Maryland	University of Maryland at Eastern Shore
Mississippi	Jackson State University, Mississippi State University
New Mexico	New Mexico State at Las Cruces
New York	Stony Brook State University
North Carolina	East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, University of North Carolina at Greensboro
Ohio	Wilberforce University
Pennsylvania	Drexel University
Puerto Rico	University of Puerto Rico at Aguadilla, University of Puerto Rico at Humacao, University of Puerto Rico at Mayaguez, University of San Juan
South Carolina	Allen University, Benedict College, Claflin College, Clemson University, Coastal Carolina University, Coker College College of Charleston, Converse College, Francis Marion College, Newberry College, South Carolina State University, University of South Carolina, Winthrop University
Texas	University of Texas at El Paso

Student Spotlight

The students featured below frequently kept us informed of their achievements since their participation in the summer training program. These students also have continued along a marine or environmental science career path.

Taconya Piper, a 1999 intern, completed her Master's Degree at the University of Maryland, Eastern Shore in 2003 and is now pursuing her Doctorate Degree in Fisheries Science and Management at Auburn University in Alabama. Taconya was an EPA Graduate Research Fellow, participated in the Student Career Experience Program with NOAA, and had a Dean John A. Knauss Marine Policy Fellowship sponsored by the National Sea Grant Program in Washington DC with NOAA/ Office of Ocean Exploration. During her time in Washington, she participated in a three-week research cruise to the Puerto Rico Trench to

map the seafloor and worked with scientists aboard the NOAA Ronald H. Brown research vessel gathering background information, daily logs and supplemental essays on the expedition.

After graduating in 2001 from Savannah State University, **Tiffany Lee Griggs** (2000 intern) received her Master's Degree in Fisheries Biology from Clemson University in South Carolina in 2003. She is currently a Junior High School Teacher in Georgia.

Cecilia Lewis (2001 intern) received her Bachelor's degree in December 2004 from the College of Charleston and shortly thereafter spent 5 months in Washington participating in the Minorities in Marine Science Undergraduate Program at Western Washington University. Cecilia is currently preparing for graduate school.

Ethell Vereen (2001 and 2002 intern) completed his Bachelor's degree in 2002 from SC State Uni-

versity. He received a Master's degree in Environmental Health Science from the University of Georgia (UGA), and is currently in a Doctoral Program in Ecology at UGA. In 2002, Ethell attended the SEERS conference and was awarded first place in the Student Presenters Category and a free Estuarine Research Federation membership. In 2005, Ethell presented a poster at the American Society for Microbiology Conference.

For two years (2002 and 2003), [Arena Richardson](#), participated in the MIMES summer internship program. She graduated with honors from South Carolina State University and accepted a full scholarship to the University of Georgia in Athens to study Human and Animal Toxicology as she pursues her Doctorate Degree.

After graduating in 2004 with honors from Spelman College in Atlanta, Georgia, [Megan Singleton](#) (2003 intern), received a full scholarship to Savannah State University in Georgia, where she is working on her Master's Degree. She presented her intern research at the 2004 SEERS meeting and received an award for the Best Student Paper.

In 2005, she attended the American Fisheries Society meeting in Anchorage, Alaska and presented a poster on a collaborative project entitled: "Georgia Oyster Watch (GeOW) - Can Oysters be Utilized as Integrative Monitors of Bacteriological and Chemical Water Quality?"

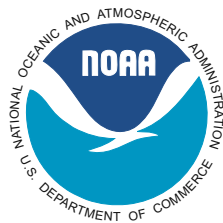
After her 2003 MIMES summer experience, [Shanna Chambliss](#) received her Bachelor's degree in December 2004 from Elizabeth City University in North Carolina. In 2004, Shanna presented her MIMES summer research at Southeastern Estuarine Research Society conference, and she participated in the Center for Environmental Molecular Science Summer Research Program at Stonybrook University in NY. In 2005, Shanna received a grant to attend Delaware State University where she will work towards a Master's Degree in Natural Resources with a concentration in Aquatic Sciences.

[Ileana La Torres](#), a 2003 intern received her Bachelor's degree from the University of Puerto Rico in 2004. She is currently enrolled in the Master's of Environmental Science program at the University of Charleston (SC).

Acknowledgements

The Minority Affairs Committee gratefully acknowledges the support received from MRD Directors, Dr. Paul Sandifer, Dr. John Miglarese and Mr. Robert Boyles. We also appreciate the state and federal funding assistance that the internship program received over the many years.

We recognize the assistance of the entire South Carolina Marine Resources Center staff. Without the many mentors and volunteers, the internship program would not have been able to function as successfully as it did. We cannot say thank you too many times.



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